



## Tulalip Charitable Contributions Funds Distribution Report

**NAME OF AGENCY:** Washington State Historical Society

**DATE OF AWARD:** 2018 Q1

**ADDRESS:** 1911 Pacific Ave., Tacoma, WA 98402

**CONTACT:** (888) 238-4373, <http://www.washingtonhistory.org>

**GENERAL GOALS:** The Washington State Historical Society is dedicated to collecting, preserving, and vividly presenting Washington's rich and storied history. The Historical Society offers a variety of services to researchers, historians, scholars, and lifelong learners, as well as operating the State History Research Center and the Washington State History Museum.

**SPECIFIC USE FOR THIS AWARD:**

This award went towards support of their administration and programs.

For more information please read the attached report from Washington State Historical Society.

Report Code: Q1 2018 14.2  
URL: <http://www.washingtonhistory.org/>

September 6, 2018

Attn: Marilyn Sheldon  
Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund  
8802 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE  
Tulalip, WA 98271-9694

Dear Ms. Sheldon:

I am delighted to share this report with you on the successes made possible by a grant from Tulalip Cares for our summer 2018 *In The Spirit* program. *In The Spirit* celebrates contemporary, Northwest Native art through a juried exhibition and a full-day arts market and festival. Due to thunderstorms this year's festival and market were moved inside, but resulted in a successful market and festival experience for artists and audiences alike. In this report, we're pleased to tell you about both milestones achieved and lessons learned.

The WSHS presented its thirteenth annual *In The Spirit: Contemporary Northwest Native Arts Exhibit* at the Washington State History Museum. We were proud to continue this program as a celebration of Northwest Native arts and artists. The quality of the artwork submitted for the 2018 program remained of a high caliber, pleasing both our judges and exhibit visitors. Works selected for the exhibit included two- and three-dimensional works and represented a wide range of media and textures, personal and political themes, and time-honored traditions celebrated in both familiar and new ways. From the time of the exhibit's opening on June 30 through its close on August 12, our records show that at least 6,108 visitors attended and were able to experience contemporary Native art, up close and personally.

Awarded in 2018 at the exhibit opening were:

- People's Choice : *Manifest Deathstiny* by Charles W Bloomfield (no period after the W)
- People's Choice, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: *A Gift of Another Day* by Suzanne L. Cross
- Best in Show: *Stargazer* by Carly Feddersen
- Spirit of the Northwest: *Protector Mask* by Linley Logan
- Honoring Tradition: *First Ancestor* by Earl Davis
- Honoring Innovation: *Generations* by Denise Emerson
- Honoring Innovation: *Owl Transformation* by Sean Gallagher
- Honoring Innovation: *Black Snake Rising* by RYAN! Feddersen

*In The Spirit* culminated in a day-long arts market and festival on August 11 (Noon to 7 p.m.). On this day, the exhibit was attended by 755 visitors, and with about 300 more who came to just the market/festival, we estimate that the day experienced nearly 1,200 visitors. The market, held throughout the five floors of the museum, showcased more than 15 vendors and offered Native artists the opportunity to exhibit and sell their work. The festival, held in the museum lobby, featured an array of live performances that kept a diverse audience fully engaged in Native culture throughout the entire day. Many of the performers took time to educate festival-goers about the cultural context of their music, dance, and stories, providing an educational dimension to this entertaining event. Performers who brought art and tradition even further to life at the *In The Spirit* market/festival included:

- Alaska Kuteeyaa Dancers, Haida and Tlingit dance and song
- Rona Yellow Robe, Cree flute
- Khu.eex,' contemporary jazz and spoken word
- Earl Davis, Shoalwater Bay carving demonstrations

For *In The Spirit's* thirteenth year, we endeavored to grow our partnership with the Tacoma Art Museum (TAM) to maximize community participation for our respective, Native art-centered annual festivals. We piloted partnership in 2017 in terms of vendor-artists and scheduling programming so that the entire festival day offered appealing options at both locations. In 2018, we successfully augmented our plans by collaborating on marketing expenses and exploring ways to make better use of the stretch of Pacific Avenue between our two institutions. Through this collaboration, we were able to engage artists at both museums with activities that allowed visitors to engage in meaningful, culturally-aware experiences in addition to the exhibit, performances, and market being offered.

Among the lessons learned, we will move toward establishing closer relationships with the tribes in order to create a stronger leadership role in the planning of the event. At the inception of *In The Spirit*, the WSHS project-managed the program jointly with senior staff from The Evergreen State College's Longhouse Education and Cultural Center. However, in 2014, the Longhouse assumed more of a consulting role, since they were busy developing a new academic degree program in the indigenous art for TESC. At the time, our staff made the determination that this program is simply too vital not to be continued. However, the absence of this partnership has left a vacuum. We plan to focus our future efforts on increasing tribal input in the planning of the exhibit and festival by creating a committee that can help establish what their communities want as an outcome of the event.

It is crucial to point out, overall financial contributions to this year's *In The Spirit* program made it possible for the TAM and the History Museum to waive admission and make the indoor exhibit free to everyone participating in the outdoor festivities. Your grant award had a very real, positive impact on our ability to secure the support of additional funders. Because of your grant, we could not only provide for market/festival expenses offset by your funds, but we could also grow the overall level of contributions to the extent that all of the festival day's activities were completely free and accessible to the entire community. This outcome would not be possible without the ripple effect generated by your gift. Our gratitude, then, is not only for your own gift but for the generosity that you inspired in others, and the positive outcomes made possible by the Northwest Native art and artists featured in this year's program.

We owe a sincere debt of gratitude to you and Tulalip Cares for supporting this program, and for what resulted in a substantially impactful, memorable experience for our visitors this summer. Thank you truly for your grant award, connecting Native American artists, performers, and the community at large who had an opportunity to connect with Northwest Native cultures. We are grateful for your support of this annual program and would be honored to partner with you again in the future. I hope you will feel free to contact me with any questions about this program or report by calling (253)798-5899 or send email to [lianna.shepherd@wshs.wa.gov](mailto:lianna.shepherd@wshs.wa.gov).

Sincerely yours,



Lianna Shepherd  
Development Director

